Listing of the Claims:

1 (original): A method of accessing a media access control (MAC) address or a 1394 globally unique identifier (GUID) serial number for a network interface controller (NIC) comprising:

5   storing the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number into a basic input/output system (BIOS); and

loading the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number from the BIOS into an operational register of the NIC.

10   2 (original): The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 1 further comprising checking if the NIC is enabled.

3 (original): The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 1 further comprising checking if the MAC address is valid.

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4 (original): The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 1 wherein storing the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number into a BIOS comprises storing the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number into a desktop management interface (DMI) region or an extended

20   system configuration data (ESCD) region of the BIOS.

5 (original): A method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number for a NIC device comprising:

storing the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number into a CMOS

25   register; and

loading the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number from the CMOS register into an operational register of the NIC device.

6 (original): The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 5 further comprising checking if the NIC device is enabled.

7 (original): The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 5 further comprising checking if the MAC address is valid.

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